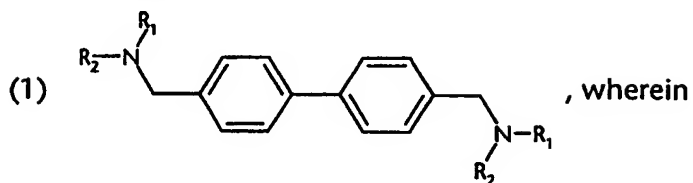


What is claimed is:

1. An alkylbenzylamine of formula



R_1 is hydrogen; C_1 - C_{18} alkyl; trifluoromethyl; C_3 - C_8 cycloalkyl; phenyl- C_1 - C_3 alkyl; phenyl- C_1 - C_3 alkoxy; mono- or di- N - C_1 - C_3 alkylamino- C_1 - C_3 alkyl; amino- mono- or di- N - C_1 - C_3 alkylamino- C_1 - C_3 alkyl; C_1 - C_3 alkoxy- C_1 - C_3 alkyl;

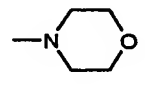
R_2 is C_2 - C_{20} alkyl; hydroxy- C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; phenyl; phenyl- C_1 - C_3 alkyl; phenyl- C_1 - C_3 alkoxy; mono- or di- N - C_1 - C_3 alkylamino- C_1 - C_3 alkyl; amino mono- or di- N - C_1 - C_3 alkylamino- C_1 - C_3 alkyl; or heteroaryl- C_1 - C_3 alkyl; or

R_1 and R_2 together with the nitrogen atom bonding them form a 5- to 7-membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring;

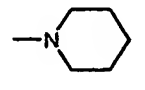
with the proviso that compounds of formula (1) are excluded wherein

- a. R_1 is hydrogen; and
 R_2 is butyl;
- b. R_1 is hydrogen; and
 R_2 is cyclohexyl;
- c. R_1 and R_2 are butyl;
- d. R_1 and R_2 are propyl;

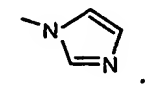
- e. R_1 and R_2 together form a monocyclic ring of the formula



- f. R_1 and R_2 together form a monocyclic ring of the formula

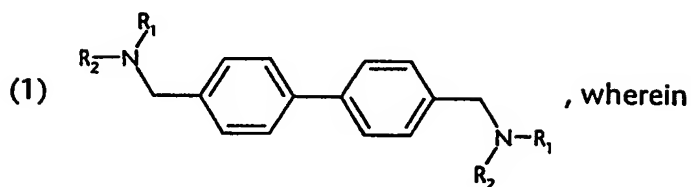


- g. R_1 and R_2 together form a monocyclic ring of the formula



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2. An alkylbenzylamine of formula



R_1 is hydrogen; C_1 - C_{16} alkyl; trifluoromethyl; C_3 - C_8 cycloalkyl; phenyl- C_1 - C_3 alkyl; phenyl- C_1 - C_3 alkoxy; mono- or di-N- C_1 - C_3 alkylamino- C_1 - C_3 alkyl; amino-di-N- C_1 - C_3 alkylamino- C_1 - C_3 alkyl; C_1 - C_3 alkoxy- C_1 - C_3 alkyl;

R_2 is C_3 - C_{20} alkyl; hydroxy- C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; phenyl; phenyl- C_1 - C_3 alkyl; phenyl- C_1 - C_3 alkoxy; mono- or di-N- C_1 - C_3 alkylamino- C_1 - C_3 alkyl; amino-di-N- C_1 - C_3 alkylamino- C_1 - C_3 alkyl; or heteroaryl- C_1 - C_3 alkyl; or

R_1 and R_2 together with the nitrogen atom bonding them form a 6- or 7-membered monocyclic heterocyclic aromatic ring.

3. A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R_1 is hydrogen; C_1 - C_8 alkyl; benzyl; or together with R_2 forms a 5- to 7-membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring.

4. A compound according to claim 1 or 3, wherein

R_1 is hydrogen.

5. A compound according to any one of claims 1, 3 and 4, wherein

R_2 is C_2 - C_{12} alkyl; phenyl- C_1 - C_2 alkyl; hydroxy- C_1 - C_3 alkyl; heteroaryl- C_1 - C_2 alkyl; or together with R_1 forms a 5- to 7-membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring.

6. A compound according to any one of claims 1 and 3 to 5, wherein

R_2 is a branched C_3 - C_8 alkyl radical.

7. A compound according to claim 6, wherein

R_2 is an isopropyl; isobutyl, tert-butyl; isohexyl; or isooctyl radical.

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8. A compound according to claim 5, wherein

R₁ is hydrogen; and

R₂ is octyl.

9. A compound according to any one of claims 1, 3 and 5 to 7, wherein

R₁ and R₂ have the same meanings.

10. A compound according to claim 9, wherein

R₁ and R₂ are linear C₂-C₁₂alkyl; or benzyl.

11. A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R₁ is hydrogen; or methyl; and

R₂ is C₂-C₁₂alkyl; or phenyl-C₁-C₂alkyl.

12. A compound according to claim 11, wherein

R₁ is hydrogen.

13. Use of a compound of formula (1) wherein

R₁ is hydrogen; C₁-C₁₈alkyl; trifluoromethyl; C₃-C₈cycloalkyl; phenyl-C₁-C₃alkyl; phenyl-C₁-C₃alkoxy; mono- or di-N-C₁-C₃alkylamino-C₁-C₃alkyl; amino-di-N-C₁-C₃alkylamino-C₁-C₃alkyl; C₁-C₃alkoxy-C₁-C₃alkyl;

R₂ is C₂-C₂₀alkyl; hydroxy-C₁-C₂₀alkyl; phenyl; phenyl-C₁-C₃alkyl; phenyl-C₁-C₃alkoxy; mono- or di-N-C₁-C₃alkylamino-C₁-C₃alkyl; amino-di-N-C₁-C₃alkylamino-C₁-C₃alkyl; or heteroaryl-C₁-C₃alkyl; or

R₁ and R₂ together with the nitrogen atom bonding them form a 5- to 7-membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring;

in the antimicrobial treatment of surfaces.

14. Use according to claim 13, wherein the compound is used in the deodorisation and disinfection of the skin, mucosa and hair.

15. Use according to claim 13, wherein the compound is used in the treatment of textile fibre materials.

16. Use of a compound of formula (1) in the preservation and antimicrobial treatment of technical products.

17. Use according to claim 16, wherein the compound is used for plastics, paper, nonwovens, wood or leather.

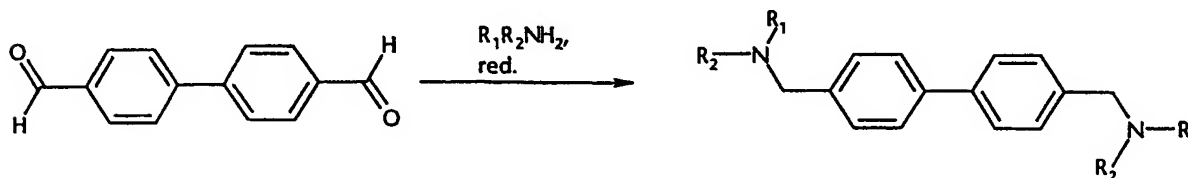
18. Use of a compound of formula (1) as an antimicrobial active ingredient in washing and cleaning formulations.

19. Use of a compound of formula (1) as a biocide in technical processes.

20. A personal care preparation, comprising from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of a compound of formula (1), and cosmetically tolerable adjuvants.

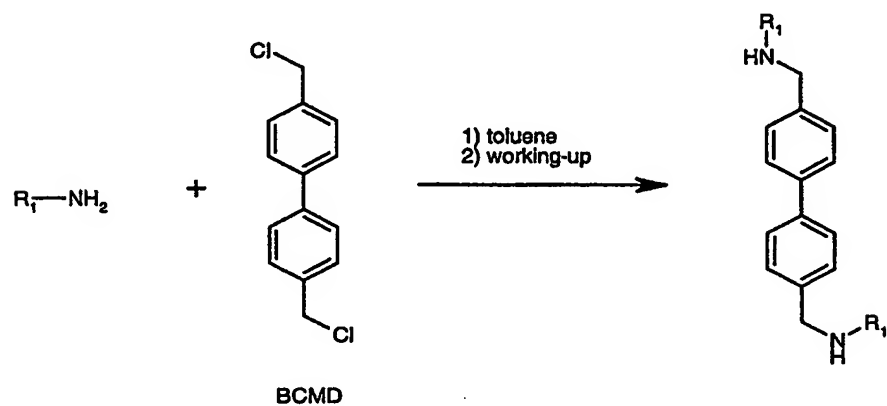
21. An oral composition, comprising from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of a compound of formula (1), and orally tolerable adjuvants.

22. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (1), wherein it is prepared in accordance with the following scheme:



wherein R_1 and R_2 are as defined for formula (1):

23. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (1), wherein it is prepared in accordance with the following scheme:



wherein R_1 is as defined for formula (1).